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SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 3 December 1951

SUBJECT Clandestine Station "Radio Free Albania"

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PLACE
ACQUIRED

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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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"Radio Free Albania", an anti-Communist transmitter directed to Albania, was first heard on 10 September and intermittently to 21 September at approximately 20:15 - 20:45 GMT on a frequency varying around 8200 kilocycles. Transmissions were obviously in the nature of tests in preparation for regular broadcasts and consisted of repeated anti-Communist slogans and announcements in the Albanian language to the effect that shortly it would broadcast the truth to the people of Albania.

It purported to be on Albanian soil and stated its sponsor to be the "Free Albania Committee." The first bars of the old Albanian national anthem were used as a signature tune. Reception [] was rather weak and distorted due to radiotelegraph interference.

25X1

On 21 September, the station began regular broadcasts at 20:00 - 20:30 GMT on a new channel of 6980 kilocycles, opening with the following announcement: "This is the Voice of Free Albania -- for Albania, for Freedom, for the Red and Black Flag. Brothers and sisters, listen to the Voice of Free Albania; the Voice of Free Albania talks for all Albanians who love their country and want it strong and free..." This was followed by news items and a commentary critical of the present Communist regime.

On 22 September it called on its listeners to spread the news of "Radio Free Albania", which came from the "free radios of the world and our trusted sources." However, it advised them to do so with caution because of spies and informants. It also warned all would-be informants "to think twice" before doing any harm to their fellow citizens or betraying them.

On 12 October, broadcasts were shifted to a new time of 17:30 - 18:00 GMT on a new frequency of 6110 kilocycles in the 49 meter broadcasting band, where the signal was rendered almost completely unintelligible due to interference from powerful transmitters in Europe utilizing the same channel such as Moscow, Berlin and Warsaw.

Its signal was not heard again until the week of 11-17 November when it reappeared on a new frequency of 6229 kilocycles where it is heard at present with poor intelligibility at 17:30 - 18:00 GMT.

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CLASSIFICATION

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